THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 38. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

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MEETINGS LIST.

Friday, Dec. 3rd.

Piggott St., 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Manicom.
Beckton Rd., 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Drake.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, Dec. 4th.

Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Morning Lane, 3.30 a.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Beamish.

Sunday, Dec. 5th.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss A. Haughton, B.A., Mr. Godbold, Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Osborne St., 11.30 a.m., Miss Lynch.
Copenhagen Place, 11.30 a.m., Miss Manicom.

Monday, Dec. 6th.

Follett St., 6 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.
"Whitehouse," 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Beamish.

Tuesday, Dec. 7th.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Miss Smyth, Mrs. Drake.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.
175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Miss Manicom, Miss Beamish.
Ingram's Rubber Factory, Hackney Wick, 1.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Holloway.

Wednesday, Dec. 8th.

Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Manicom.
53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Thursday, Dec. 9th.

175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Beamish.
55 Fife Road, 3 p.m., Miss Smyth, Mrs. Parsons.

Friday, Dec. 10th.

Grundy St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.
Beckton Rd., 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Mrs. Drake.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, Dec. 11th.

Morning Lane and Well St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.
Vernon Rd., 3.30 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Lynch.

Sunday, Dec. 12th.

Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Mr. Atlee and others.
Bow Women's Hall, 7 p.m.
International League, East London Branch, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Fraser Smith.

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FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH!

CONSCRIPTION OF HALLS

(Sub Rosa)

As a result of the disturbance created by young soldiers and students with forged tickets at the U.D.C. meeting in the Memorial Hall, on November 29th, the proprietors have cancelled the lets to the following organistations:—

British Socialist Party.—Meeting against Conscription, November 30th.

Speakers—E. C. Fairchild, Robert Williams, George Lansbury, E. Friend, J. G. Butler.

Women's International League.—December 1st., Meeting against Conscription.

Speakers—Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Bondfield, Miss Marshall, Miss Royden.

East London Federation of the Suffragettes.—December 2nd, Meeting in aid of the Mothers' Arms and baby clinics.

Speakers: **Mr. Bernard Shaw on the Nation's Vitality,** Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky and Mrs. Drake.

This meeting has been transferred to the Portman Rooms, Baker Street.

THE MOTHER'S ARMS.

We know that the proprietors of the Central Hall, Westminster, and the Kingsway Hall, were also approached by the promoters of at least two of these meetings, and refused the use of their halls. Also Mr. Guy Aldfred, of *The Spur* was refused the Memorial Hall for a meeting on December 9th, against Conscription. Evidently there is a panic amongst the hall proprietors of London, who appear to dread the heavy hand of the Government and police on the one hand and mob violence by young jingoes on the other. This is a very serious matter, and it is also a serious matter that hall proprietors should play fast and loose with those to whom they let their halls, as they are doing with impunity at present.

The cancelling of the meeting in aid of the Bow Mothers' Arms is particularly scandalous. We wonder what the gun makers in Bow who subscribe their pennies for the babies each week, will think of the comfortably-off people who have not scrupled to endeavour to wreck the meeting called to raise funds for it.

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DEFYING THE LORD PROVOST.

At the end of last week the Lord Provost of Glasgow cancelled the letting of the Town Hall to the Herald League for an anti-conscription meeting to take place on Monday, Nov. 29th, which was to be addressed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. George Lansbury and Mr. John Maclean, a schoolmaster, who recently served five days' imprisonment under the Defence of the Realm Act, for saying that he had enlisted in the Socialist Army and would serve in no other.

The Herald League originally took the Town Hall, but the meeting was eventually run by the Glasgow Free Speech Committee, which is composed of representatives of all the Glasgow Labour and Socialist organisations.

The only excuses given for the cancellation of the meeting were that the I.L.P. anti-conscription meeting in London had been disturbed and that John Maclean was a "criminal." But the authorities left the promoters of the meeting in no doubt that even if John Maclean were not to speak, no anti-conscription meeting would be allowed.

Mr. McGill of the Herald League at once replied that the League would bring an action for damages, and the Labour Party raised the matter in the City Council. The authorities replied that the matter could not be discussed as an action had been threatened. Councillor Kerr and Councillor Dollan protested, and Councillor Kerr was suspended for the day and was obliged to leave.

Four Great Sunday Meetings.

Glasgow is a great place for labour and socialist meetings, and therefore the I.L.P., the B.S.P. and the Clarion Scouts each have a large theatre meeting every Sunday evening. A meeting of the rent strikers was also being held on Sunday 28th November in Govan, which is a few miles outside Glasgow.

The Herald League resourcefully approached the promoters of these four meetings, who demonstrated their solidarity in the cause of free speech by throwing open their platforms to Miss Pankhurst and Mr. Lansbury, who were advised that they must arrive in time for the Sunday meetings. Handbills were hurriedly issued, and as a result three of the big halls, at one of which Mr. Maclean took the chair, were so densely crowded that numbers of people had to be turned away. The meeting which was not crowded was that of the Clarion Scouts, with whom it had not been possible to make the arrangement until the last moment.

Women Rent Strikers.

The speakers, who chased round from hall to hall, had a great reception in each case. At the Penoptican Miss Sylvia Pankhurst had only been speaking a few moments, when a messenger rushed on to the stage and told her that, as the manager had just heard that the Lord Provost had cancelled the Monday meeting, she must not speak. The audience guessed what was happening and shouted, "go on," and Miss Pankhurst said, "You cannot stop anyone in the middle of a speech," and continued without a pause.

At the Metropole meeting a resolution was moved, welcoming the Rent Bill, but protesting against the population limit. Glasgow, Govan and the surrounding districts are seething with excitement over the rent question, and the people are filled with triumph by their recent great victory.

The women of Govan have been in the vanguard of the agitation. They have made systematic arrangements to protect the homes of those against whom notices of eviction have been served. Crowds of them have spent the night on the common stairways leading to the tenement dwellings and neighbours have served tea to those who have kept the vigil. When the factors have arrived to execute eviction orders and to demand increases, the women have poured oatmeal and flour over them, and have poured after a little milk to make the mixture stick.

Citizens' Rights Denied.

On Monday morning Miss Pankhurst and Mr. Lansbury went with Baillie Stewart to see the Lord Provost, but he was not at the Municipal Offices, and the Town Clerk said he had no power to grant the hall.

However, it had gone round that the munition workers were coming from the Clyde and the authorities agreed that an open-air meeting might be held in Albion Street, near, but not too near, to the Town Hall. If it were close to the Town Hall, it would look like "defiance" of the Lord Provost's orders, the Chief Constable said.

To an outsider it would have appeared very doubtful whether there would be any audience to listen to the speakers, as it had been announced in every paper that the meeting was cancelled, and as the open-air meeting was not arranged till two o'clock on Monday afternoon, after which, matters were just allowed to take their course, without any apparant attempt to advertise the meeting.

Towards evening it began to rain, and there was a steady and heavy downpour from seven o'clock onwards. Nevertheless long before 7.45, the advertised time of the meeting, a vast crowd had assembled eagerly clamouring for the speaking to begin. Who has ever seen such a meeting, thousands of men and women standing out there in almost pitch darkness, in deep puddles of water and with scarcely an umbrella amongst them in that soaking rain? When Councillor Kerr, said that if the War couldn't be won by fighting without

(Continued on page 376, col. 2.)

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

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Arrangements for our Annual Conference.

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Vol. II. No. 38—Sat., Dec. 4th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE RENT BILL

Will it be a Dead Letter?

Owing chiefly to the determined action of the men and women in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, the Government has at last introduced a Bill to prevent the raising of rents and mortgage interest on working class dwellings.

The Bill, as is usual with the reform measures which the people wring from the Government, is a bad Bill, and only partially pretends to do what the people have demanded.

In the first place, the measure, if passed in its present form, will not at once come into operation for the whole of the British Isles as soon as it becomes an Act.

There are no penalties attached to the Bill. A landlord who fraudulently puts up the rent incurs no punishment. The tenant must bring an action in the County Court.

A Fight for each District!

It must be specially extended to each area by Order in Council—a cumbrous procedure, designed to secure delay, which will certainly entail a strenuous local fight before the Order is extended to any district. Clearly the workers on the Clyde are to be deprived of the satisfaction of winning a rent charter for the entire nation. The tenants in each place must fight their own battle anew, and the battle will be very hard, unless the workers are engaged on munitions, and so able to bring peculiarly strong pressure to bear upon the Government.

Act Applys Only to Large Towns.

But more than this, the Bill expressly provides that its provisions can only apply to the administrative County of London, and to borough and urban districts in which there was at the last census a population of more than 100,000, or in Ireland more than 25,000, persons. This provision can only be over-ruled if "it appears to His Majesty" (His Majesty, indeed, as an expert on cottage property!) that there is a dearth of housing accommodation *owing to the war.*

If the scarcity of housing was present *before* the war, as unfortunately it was very acutely in most country districts, that is not supposed to matter—at any rate, the Bill will not prevent the rent being raised. Of course, the Bill is needed everywhere, not merely where there is a dearth of houses, for nowhere can the working people afford to pay increased rent. Country people usually earn lower wages than town dwellers; therefore they suffer even more than town dwellers when their rents are increased.

Oppression in the Country.

It was at Wellington, one of these country districts where no protection is to be given to the tenants, that Helen Turner, a soldier's wife, ran out of her house and threw herself in the stream, because the landlord was actually demolishing the chimney and tearing the roof from above her children's heads.

Why is a distinction to be made in favour of landlords in country districts? The answer is not far to seek. We have a Coalition Cabinet now, and the Government dare not act without the consent of the great landlords, who for generations past have refused to build the cottages that have been needed most urgently on their land.

Members stated in the debate on the Rent Bill that the bulk of working class dwellings are owned by people of the lower middle class. This applies to the towns, not to the country districts. It is typical of the way in which the world is managed to-day that the workman may sometimes be given protection against house-owners of the lower middle class, but never against the powerful and wealthy landlord. But there is yet another reason for the population limit; it is a means of limiting the Bill, and that—whether the limitation be logical or not—is exactly what the Government wants. Mr. Barnes pointed out that in Leith the rents have been raised very considerably, but that the population of Leith is not large enough to bring it within the scope of the Bill. Mr. Smith made the same complaint in regard to Warrington, St. Helens, and Wigan; and, indeed, it appears that the majority of the towns, including many important manufacturing centres, are barred out from the Bill.

Government's Free Hand.

Another highly unsatisfactory provision is that which states that the Order in Council "*may contain such incidental, consequential, or supplemental provisions as may appear necessary or proper for the purpose of the Order.*"

In these days of Party Truce and autocratic government, it is the fashion to put into every Act of Parliament provisions to enable the Government to modify the Act as it pleases. This clause certainly gives the Government almost unlimited powers. It is practically certain that the Government will not use its powere to extend the protection for poor tenants, but as a convenient loophole for whittling away what little life there may be in the Act.

We have already many Acts of Parliament that are practically dead letters. Alas, it is a fact, which the Government fully appreciates, that our most common national failing is apathy. The Government knows too well that if injustice and hardship can but be forced upon us gradually, we will tolerate almost any evil. The lawyers who draft the Government Bills always endeavour to make us believe that each case of hardship is quite exceptional, and that the people who seek redress have, somehow or other, failed to comply with the regulations framed for their protection.

Crushing the Bottom Dog.

The Bill further provides that if a landlord has spent any money in improving or repairing his house since the war, or if he spends any money in this way now, he may increase the tenant's rent to the extent of 6 per cent. per annum on the money he has spent.

This we think most unjust. We presume that landlords have hitherto calculated the rents they charge so as to cover the cost of necessary repairs and improvements and to yield them a profit in addition. If the cost of repairs, and of borrowing money for repairs, has now increased—well that is the landlord's share of the War burden which everyone is supposed to be bearing just now. The tenants are paying increased prices for their coal, gas, food, boots, clothes, and everything that they buy; they too will have to execute little repairs to house and furniture, and to do this will cost them more than it used to do. Working-class tenants have no one on whom to unload their burden—is it fair that they should have passed on to them the burden of the butcher, the baker, the shoemaker, and the landlord?

In any case 6 per cent. is a very high rate of interest, especially as the landlord, in pre-War times, had arranged his rent to cover a certain amount of interest on repairs.

The Price Limit.

Another limitation introduced into the Bill is that which states that its provisions shall not apply to any house, the rateable value of which exceeds £40, or to any house, or part of a house, the rent of which, or the rateable value of which exceeds, in the administrative county of London, £30, and elsewhere £21.

Ordinary people must say on reading the Bill that the sections in which this is laid down are very ambiguous, and indeed the *Times* says that this part of the Bill is confusing, and that the County Court Judges will no doubt be called in to interpret it before the Act has long been in force. We imagine, however, that the distinction between the £30 and £40 is that if the rateable value of a house exceeds £40 a year, the Bill is not intended to apply to that house, however many tenants may occupy it. If this is so, the big barrack-dwellings (and we know of some very wretched ones where rents are scandalously high) will not be touched by the Rent Bill. The £30 rent for London and the £21 rent, we imagine, is to apply to a house, or part of a house so long as the total rateable value of the house does not exceed £40. Thus, so far as we are able to unravel this problem, it appears that if a house is let to two families, each paying £15 a year rent, those tenants will be able to claim the protection of the Act. But that if a tenement building is let out to ten tenants, each paying, say £11 a year, these infinitely poorer people, will not be protected from increases in their rent.

But whether this particular anomaly exists or not, we object to the price limit. If a rule is made that house rent should not be raised during the War, it should apply all round, to every district, and to every house.

At a Conference of the Worker's National Committee and local Trade Union organisations, called at Cardiff, it was stated that 80 per cent. of the working class houses of Cardiff are not covered by the Bill, as it is impossible to get a house there under 10s. a week. The same may be said of many other districts.

No Help for the Weak.

No, the Rent Bill will not do! The Bill makes an attempt to settle the rent trouble on the Clyde, where the workers have shown that they are strong enough to deal with the matter for themselves without an Act of Parliament. The Bill may meet, *to a certain extent*, the London situation, but the greater part of the British Isles it is expressly designed not to touch, and especially it leaves the defenceless, because isolated, family in the country to the mercy of the powerful landlord.

The only bulwark against the exploitations of capitalists, and the callousness of Governments, is the organised intelligent solidarity of the working class.

If the Clyde workers, the Welsh miners and others should decide to think and act *nationally*, as they have at times done *locally*, they would quickly force Mr. Walter Long, with the Government at his back, to bring in an entirely transformed Rent Bill!

But in the meantime the women must stand firmly together and refuse to pay a single penny of increased rent.

The sturdy stand that women have made in this matter is a splendid preparation for solidarity of action when we have gained another weapon—THE VOTE.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

[In reply to strong criticism in the Second Reading Debate, Mr. Long said that the Government would agree to extend the measure more generally, but gave no details.]

MERTHYR.

The enemies of progress, the capitalist reactionaries and the regenade jingo labour wreckers are exulting in the loss to the I.L.P. of Keir Hardie's seat. The *Glasgow Herald* with surprising candour says: "the old Adam in most of us unaffectedly rejoices."

Yes, the *Glasgow Herald* is right, it is the savage instincts of the barbarous old Adam still surviving, that make it possible, not only that wars should continue, but that men should exult in them, and should remain deaf and blind to the outrages on humanity, which continue in peace as well as in war.

Stanton's winning of the Merthyr seat is undoubtedly a loss to the forces of progress, but the issue has not been altogether clean cut. We are told that a good deal of purely personal rivalry was dragged into the contest, because Winstone was for years the miner's agent for the district, whilst Stanton was agent in another part of South Wales, and one miner's agent does not usually trespass in another agent's district in the matter of candidatures. Unfortunately such petty personal questions are sometimes allowed to outweigh grave public issues.

Beside this, the contest was fought on an old register, as registration has been entirely suspended during the War, and an old register always proves disadvantageous to the working class, because on the whole, they move from place to place much oftener than other people. Moreover, a large proportion of the workers have joined the army, whilst the mine managers and business men have remained at home almost to a man.

But more than this, we must remember that James Winstone is *not* Keir Hardie. He did not fight the contest as Keir Hardie would have fought it. Indeed we know that much of what was said and done during the contest, would never have been, if great Keir Hardie had been there fighting for the workers under the red flag.

Perfect courage and absolute singleness of aim can alone surmount the greatest of all obstacles. By these qualities, which he possessed in fuller measure than any man of our time, Keir Hardie won the Merthyr seat in the last Khaki election, and so he would have won in the next Khaki election, if he had lived to see the day. The electors of Merthyr have fallen indeed, in having placed a poor traitor to his class, like Stanton, in the seat Keir Hardie held, but the choice between Keir Hardie and Stanton was not theirs.

A successor to Keir Hardie has not yet been found.

THE
Woman's Dreadnought Christmas Number

Published Saturday, December 18th

WILL BE THREE TIMES THE USUAL SIZE

It will contain many interesting articles and beautiful drawings by HERBERT COLE and A. K. BROWNING, including a gift to the E.L.F.S. by WALTER CRANE.

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115	Robin on Perch		
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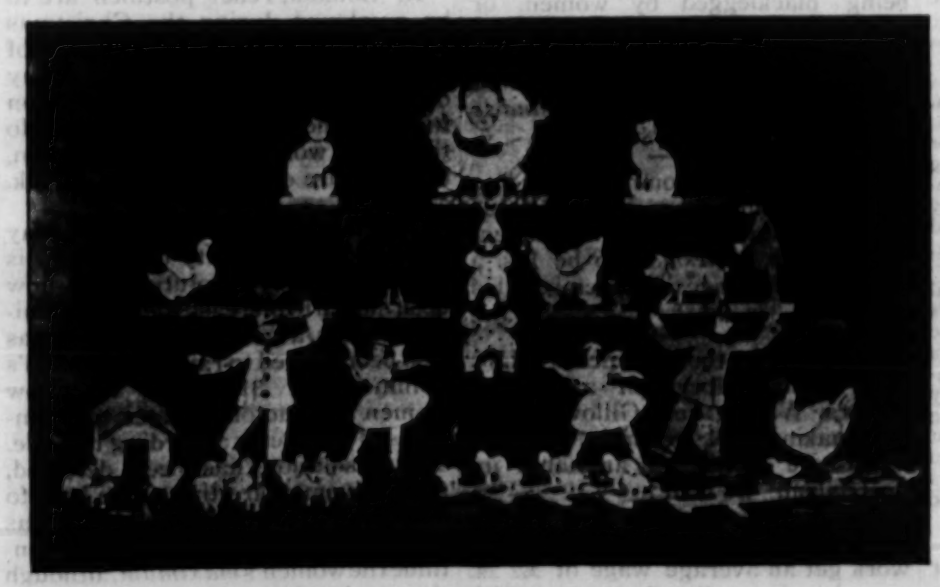

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138A	Do. (larger)	1	6
139	Angel and Tree (Byzantine)	2	2
142	"Come-on" Child and Dog	0	6½
156	Dancing Girl	0	9
157	Jumping Boy	0	9
158	Men and Anvil	0	6½
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160	Jig-Saw Puzzles (Walter Crane's pictures). *From*	2	6

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E.L.F.S. Toys may be bought at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., or the International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, Adelphi; at the U.S. Sale, Central Hall, Westminster, Dec. 10th—11th, 3 to 10 p.m.; or by post from 45 Norman Road, Bow.

All Christmas Orders should be sent in early to avoid disappointment.

Buy the E.L.F.S. Toys.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

A Joint Delegate Meeting of Suffrage Societies will be held early in December to discuss the lines of a united forward Suffrage campaign in the New Year, including the holding of a Public Conference and an Albert Hall Meeting, or other great demonstration. We should be glad to hear from our readers on this subject.

This is specially important, in view of the possibility of Government action in regard to the franchise.

Phillip Snowden, M.P., writes:—"The rumour to which you refer is very persistent, but I cannot find any grounds for it. I think it is very unlikely that the Government will raise the franchise issue just now, for if they do they must know that they would revive the woman suffrage question in all its vigour. From that point of view I should not be sorry. I should certainly throw myself into the woman's fight in such circumstances."

Dear Madam,

I see in the DREADNOUGHT you invite readers to write re Joint Delegate Meeting of Suffrage Societies. I am glad you intend to arrange such a meeting. It is time something was done to organise the women suffragists in the country and start suffrage work again. It seems to me that the time is more than ripe for another forward movement of suffrage women, and I heartily approve of and wish your proposal all success. N. O'SHEA.

Dear Madam, Southsea.

I am extremely glad to hear that it is proposed to hold a Joint Delegate Meeting of Suffragists in December, with a view to a United Forward Suffrage Campaign in the New Year. If such a meeting is held I shall do my best to make it known here and to get Societies to send delegates.

L. H. PEACOCK, W.S.P.U.

A Letter to the Prime Minister.

Sir,—I am requested on behalf of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage to ask you what form the New Franchise Bill is to assume.

You may, perhaps, remember that on two occasions, viz., July 17th, 1913, and February 16th, 1914, Deputations from Scotland and the North of England waited upon Mr. Asquith to lay before him their views upon the subject of Women's Suffrage, but were declined an audience. Immediately following the last refusal of February, 16th, 1914, the members of the Federation, joined by the ex-Chairman of the Liberal Organisation of his constituency (who has resigned his chairmanship as a protest against the Liberal Government's treatment of women), immediately contested the Leith Burghs' bye-election, and largely contributed to the loss of the seat to the Liberal Party, so incensed was Scotland at Mr. Asquith's repeated burking and betrayal of the Women's Suffrage question, and his refusal to receive a deputation of Magistrates and Councillors from its principal centres. I mention this incident as in no sense a political punishment for what my organisation looks upon as a political crime, but rather to remind you that there *does* lie at the back of the women's demand a very large body of male opinion, which is likely to be made manifest in a more undesirable way than at the polls, if women are to be betrayed again, and at such a time, when it is plainly the duty of the nation to recognise them as an integral part of the National Life and National Politics.

We are as a Society not opposed to the principle of a Service Franchise for men, but we are strenuously opposed to any fresh measure of Franchise passing on to the Statute which does not include equality of voting rights for women. There has been no mandate on the part of men for this new measure, which sprung ostensibly from the House of Lords, but there has been a very powerful and cruelly contested mandate for Woman's Suffrage, and I am to ask you if the principle will be incorporated in the threatened Franchise Bill?

Awaiting the favour of a reply,

I am, yours truly,

M. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT,
President N.M.F. for W.S.

The Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage has passed the following resolution:—"That in view of the constantly increasing number and complexity of the questions affecting women and children which the war is bringing to light, the settlement of which must involve widespread readjustment of social and industrial conditions when peace is restored; it is desirable that every non-party Suffrage organisation should be prepared with a resolution, to be forwarded to the responsible heads of the Government *immediately* after the declaration of peace, demanding the enfranchisement of women as the first act of Peace legislation in this country, in order that such necessary readjustments may be equitably determined by and for the nation as a whole."

At a great meeting in the Cooper Union Hall, New York, the suffragists raised a hundred thousand dollars, (£20,000), the largest sum ever raised in the United States at a votes for women meeting.

THE MUNITIONS ACT.

Will it be Amended?

A Conference between representatives of Munition Trade Unions and Mr. Lloyd George was held on November 30th at the Central Hall, Westminster. The *Daily Chronicle* reports that "the Minister's remarks were frequently greeted with cheers and there were roars of laughter when he made a palpable hit." Mr. Lloyd George is an adept at amusing an audience, but we do not think that the workers who come under the mailed fist of the Munitions Act consider it a laughing matter!

Mr. Lloyd George's proposals for amending the Munitions Act are not forthcoming, as we go to Press, but his opening statement gives no reason to hope that they will be satisfactory. He said that the State cannot allow advances in rates of wages in accordance with the law of supply and demand, although the Government refuses to interfere with the law of supply and demand when private profiteers are raising the cost of living. Does Mr. Lloyd George mean his refusal to raise wages to apply also to the sweated women?

He further said that he could not agree that workers should appeal against the refusal of discharge certificates by their employers, as soldiers in the trenches cannot appeal against the orders of their officers.

We submit that the position of an employer is not that of an officer; but all this shows that Mr. Lloyd George is determined to introduce coercion into the workshop.

The Women's Local Government Society has sent a memorial to the Minister of Munitions, urging that the Munitions Act be amended to provide a panel of women, so that one of them may be appointed as an additional assessor where the rights of women workers are involved.

If one of these assessors be not available, the female party to the dispute, it is suggested, should be entitled to require that a woman factory, insurance, or sanitary inspector be nominated to act in that capacity.

We wish them success!

We learn that Messrs. G. J. Weir, Ltd., of the Holm Foundry, Cathcart, pay women engaged on big shells 15s. a week; women engaged on small shells can make £1. The National Federation of Women Workers is trying to secure a £1 a week minimum for the women, but, in spite of Lloyd George's boasted "*recommendation*," the firm is resisting the demand.

Mr. William Weir, the Managing Director of the firm, is the representative of the *Minister of Munitions* for the district.

Need we wonder that the workers cannot secure justice, when their employer is given Governmental powers over them?

We consider it an insult to the intelligence of both men and women, to offer women, who may be doing skilled work, a £1 a week minimum, when the minimum of the unskilled man is 25s. But even this paltry minimum, which does not safeguard the men from being blacklegged by women, or secure to women anything approaching equal pay for equal work, is denied!

We urge the workers to demand equal pay for men and women, and to be satisfied with no less!

The wage most commonly paid to women munitioneers in the Clyde district is stated by a correspondent of the *New Statesman* to be 15s. a week, and the wage of the semi-skilled men to be 33s. 9d.

The Queen took Princess Mary and Prince Albert on a tour of Messrs. Waring and Gillow's great tent-making works recently. "It was a six-acre picture of animated industrialism" we hear!

Queen Mary was told that women who are employed on military tent work get an average wage of £2 2s. a week. In reality their pay is 3½d. an hour.

CANNING TOWN E.L.F.S. MILK FUND SOCIAL, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 7.30 p.m. FAIRBAIRN HALL, 310 BARKING RD.

WORKERS READ WHAT A BARONET THINKS OF YOU!

"I can only submit that the saving or the thrifty man or woman, who has taken that increased rent, has a right to do so. It would be wrong not to do so; to leave that money in the pocket of the well-to-do, and the well-paid working man to spend on his numerous and, in many cases, unwholesome pleasures!"—Sir John Rolleston on the Rent Bill, House of Commons, November 25th.

Some of the Well-to-do.

Dear Editor,—Being a weekly reader of the DREADNOUGHT I see by the cases of "sweating" you publish there that you are interested in such cases.

I am a poor woman with a very limited income, glad to earn a small amount anywhere, and have been without any work for four weeks. I answered an advertisement in the *Hackney and Kingsland Gazette*, by Caplin, of 6 Tudor Street, Hackney, for light Government work, "machinist, constant employment for good workers." I was given some bandolier straps, 40 inches long, to machine for 9d. a gross, or ¾d. a dozen. Having a baby four months old to attend to, I do not get on very fast. I had the two gross out on Monday twelve o'clock. This is Wednesday, and I am not finished yet. I shall not earn sufficient to pay my 2s. machine money. This is a sample of the *well-paid Government* work. I can do better on the bags for 2s. a hundred, as on them I can earn 8s. a week, but I cannot get any bags to do now. Yours, etc.,

A WORKER.

[*We have the writer's name and address, Editor, W.D.*]

A friend from Golder's Green tells us that a firm of phonograph and telegraph makers is engaging women and girls over 16 years in men's places at 6s. 3d. a week. The hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and one o'clock on Saturdays. On piece-work women earn from 8s. to 12s. a week.

At Clapton a wholesale dress-making firm pays the best workers 8s. to 10s. a week—hours 8 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.; 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Overtime is paid 3d. an hour. Their work is sold to high-class West End firms.

There is a placard on the wall asking workers to "make one penny go as far as two." Is this meant to be ironical?

During the week at Golder's Green shop-keepers sell food-stuffs much cheaper than on Fridays and Saturdays, when the working-class women do their marketing.

A case in point is a shop where butter was 1s. 6d. per lb. last Friday morning; in the evening and on Saturday the same butter was sold for 1s. 10d. per lb.!

It is now officially announced that the Postal authorities are engaging the services of nearly two thousand women for the Christmas rush at the Manchester Post Office. In the past men only have been engaged for the Christmas pressure at the Manchester Post Office, but this year women are being given a chance.

And we hope get the same wages as the men did.

In London, relief postmen are to be employed during the Christmas rush at 26s. a week. The wage of the regular postman is 36s. Many of the women are to be kept on for permanent duties, and are to do the same work as regular postmen, but they are only to get 26s. a week.

The minimum wage of tramway conductors in the City of Glasgow is 27s. a week. A resolution has now been moved to increase the men's minimum to 31s. a week. A resolution has also been moved to raise the women's minimum to 31s., and to allow women conductors' wages to be increased like men's according to scale. This resolution has been defeated. All the women are thus to be kept to a wage of 27s. a week, and what was once the men's *minimum* is to continue the women's *maximum*, although the men's minimum has been raised!

It has been agreed that women are to be piecers in the mule-spinning rooms of the Lancashire Cotton Mills, and that they are to have the same wage as men.

THE VALUE OF UNITY.

The men and women employees of Clarke's biscuit factory in Limehouse struck work last Saturday against the bonus system and inequality of pay for men and women. The firm conceded their demands the same day!

Our congratulations to Clarke's workers on their courage and power of organisation.

LADY BLACKLEGS.

The American *Voice of Labour* of Nov. 6th gives the names of 17 "ladies" who went into the Essex Rubber Company at Trenton, New Jersey, in place of women workers who went out on strike in sympathy with the men strikers, and also to demand a living wage for themselves.

The places of the men were easily filled, but the President of the Company complained to his wife of the difficulty of replacing the girls, with the result that *she* resolved to give "those girls" a lesson. She and 16 of her friends motored to their work, and declared themselves delighted with it; but, of course, it was not the work but the wages "those girls" objected to.

This incident is one which we in this country should not let pass unnoticed, for the present introduction of financially independent women workers might easily bring about similar blacklegging here.

To a certain extent "patriotic" women volunteers are keeping the standard of wages from rising; we must be "economical" even at the expense of our needy sisters they think. Let them beware of going a step further and incurring the disgrace of the "lady" scabs of Trenton.

Lady munitioneers at Erith invite more volunteers; but do they not know that many necessitous workers are still unemployed?

Leaving Out Those Concerned.

The Secretary of Scotland has appointed—The Right Hon. Sir J. H. A. Macdonald, K.C.B. (Chairman), Owen D. Jones, Esq., Robert Macintosh, Esq., Sir Joseph Paton Maclay, Bt., Sir Thomas Mason, Harry Rawson, Esq., Sir C. Bine Renshaw, Bt., Adam Tait, Esq., and Miss Alice Younger, on the committee to consider the conditions of clerical and commercial employment in Scotland with a view to substituting women for men.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries has formally protested against the fact that "organised women clerical workers are entirely unrepresented on the committee to inquire into the substitution of men by women."

Mr. Herbert Elvin, General Secretary of the National Union of Clerks, stated recently that the Union is most anxious that women should organise so as to secure the same rate of pay as men. The Government, he added, was one of the most unsatisfactory employers of woman clerical labour. The average rate of Government pay to woman was from £1 to 26s., and it was paying woman Army pay clerks £1 where men had 30s. to £2.

We are glad the Union is drawing attention to Government pay, as this is so often taken as a standard by private employers.

The Government ought to be *the* model employer!

A NEW AGE LIMIT.

A soldier's wife in Poplar, who supports her mother and child on 21s., told us she tried to get work, as high prices made it hard for her to manage on her allowance. The answer she received everywhere was that she was too old, although she is only 34!

The Munitions Ministry has taken over the control of the Ordnance Board.

We shall now know when mistakes occur, who is responsible.

Cambridge Dons "Saving the Babies."

A Cambridge professor writes:—"The College has substituted custard for cream, with fruit, tarts, etc., because one member of the Council has represented that whenever you swallow a spoonful of cream you starve a baby."

THE ALTERNATIVE.

Better barren women than children bred for War;
Better death in birth than manhood trained for murder;
Better bleak wild country than shattered flesh and bone;
Better voided earth before primeval sundawn;
And better dead blank world if battles still must rage—
But best of all, no War at all,
And Peace in a Golden Age.

CLARA COLE.

NO HELP FROM RENT BILL.

At Godalming, the wife and three young children of a British soldier who fought for his country and is now a prisoner in Germany, are to be ejected, because the woman has fallen into arrears with the rent.

The case, brought before the Godalming Police Court, was for an ejectment order against Private George E. Gunter, although the authorities well know that he is now a prisoner in Germany.

Mrs. Gunter gave evidence and declared it was through the illness of her children that she had got into arrears. Her separation allowance is 23s. 0d.

The Bench granted the order for ejectment, which will expire in 21 days—just in time for Christmas!

Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood, in the House of Commons, pointed out to the Under-Secretary of State for War that many wives of soldiers at the front had been evicted from their homes, and all of them have been unable to secure other houses in the Aldershot area.

Mr. Tennant pleaded ignorance!

The population limit prevents the Rent Bill being of use in such cases.

Colonel Allan Sykes cited the case of a landlord in Mobberley, Cheshire, who since the commencement of the war had acquired 20 cottages in that parish, and had recently given all tenants notice of increasing their rent 100 per cent., and in some cases more than 100 per cent.

The tenants in question must either leave the village or pay the increased rent, since there are no other available dwellings.

Again the Rent Bill does not apply!

The Manchester Workers' War Emergency Committee has held a meeting to protest against the raising of the rents. A Tenant's Association has been formed, and it is hoped to get 10,000 members.

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500 tenants of Hanover Buildings, Tooley Street, held a meeting to protest against the raising of their rents by 3d. a week.

A widower with nine children, who appeared in response to a possession summons at Bow County Court, told the Judge that he had found it impossible to find a place to live in. He had tramped round Leyton, Stratford, Leytonstone, and Manor Park, and got the same answer everywhere "Houses full up." Judge Smyly allowed him the longest time the law permitted, 21 days, to give up possession.

The newest game is for landlords to get rid of old tenants, and increase the rent for new ones!

DON'T BE A BREWER'S TOOL.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., addressed a meeting of railwaymen at Battersea Town Hall, and said with reference to the power of the Central Control Board:—"The name of trade unions, and our own trade union, have been used by people who don't care a rap for trade unions or our own society. They are being used in the interests, I very much regret to say, of brewers and publicans."

"Don't let us be made a tool of by these people," was Mr. Thomas's warning.

The Yorkshire Union of Socialist Sunday Schools oppose Conscription, as a violation of Principle, and a menace to the liberty of the people, and pledges itself to support any members of Socialist Sunday Schools, who are prepared to resist, whatever the consequences.

Mr. Ford's peace expedition is said to be going to start at once. The first vessel, *Oscar II.*, is advertised to leave on Saturday, under the command of Mr. Ford. The papers denote much of their valuable space to ridiculing Mr. Ford's plan.

We wish him success!

BROTHERHOOD CHURCH, Southgate Road, Kingsland, N. GRAND SOCIAL, Saturday, Dec. 11th, 1915. :: Vocal and Instrumental Music. :: Short Speeches. :: Fairyland Sketch. Refreshments. Tickets Sixpence. Commence at 7. :: All proceeds towards the E.L.F.S. "Infant Welfare Fund." :: :: :: :: ::

HUMBUG!

Hitchin guardians decided, by the Chairman's casting vote, to refuse the Workhouse inmates' beer, as a War economy on Christmas Day.

A working woman comments: "Aren't they mean spirited *humbugs!*"

Economy has been effected in the Houses of Parliament by a restriction on the supply of writing paper and envelopes, the substitution of wooden penholders for quills, and of wooden spills for matches in the smoking-room.

At a conference of the Association of Poor Law Unions, the reduction of the qualifying age for Old Age Pensions on account of the increased cost of living was discussed.

It was also suggested that the Government be called on to suspend the clause which prohibits old age pensioners from receiving relief.

Both points were opposed on the ground that the time for dealing with the question was inopportune!

In reply to Sir A. Markham's query whether certain political pensions are to be continued, the Prime Minister stated that the pensions were governed by Statute, and, therefore, he had no power to discontinue them.

A country at War may make emergency laws, which curtail the liberty of the man or woman of the people; but curtail the pension of an Earl—never!

Sir A. Markham also suggested to the Prime Minister that, by foregoing a part of their salaries, Ministers should set an example of economy to the country.

The Prime Minister replied: "Everybody has got to consider what he conceives to be his duty in this matter."

Then why send people round preaching thrift?

The rescue work done by the Queen's Work for Women Fund is the subject of Mr. Harold Begbie's latest book. Various typical cases are quoted in which 10s. came as a great blessing; for instance, that of a lady and her daughter completely stranded through the War, whom Mr. Begbie quotes as saying:—"She began to tell me of her tricks to cheat hunger. Perhaps you have no idea how very cheaply one can live. For instance, 'with a tin of condensed milk and a few crusts of bread a person can manage to exist for several days. With sugar and currants added—I sometimes treat myself to a pennyworth of currants—the dish is quite appetising.'

'As for a cup of tea,' she declares that 'the same leaves can be used at least three times.'"

This is a miserable existence on 10s. a week, unworthy of a nation that spends £5,000,000 a day on War!

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company has made a net profit of £103,822 this year. Last year the net profit was £65,096 and the year before £2,267, but according to the *Manchester Guardian* matters are so arranged that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not get any of the increased profit.

Lord Charlemont, in describing his experiences as a munitioneer, paid a tribute to his fellow workers by saying that they have been "most obliging and helpful" to him. He earns between £1 15s. and £3 10s. on piece-work rates.

How is it, that lords with lordly incomes, are paid at the same rates as ordinary men; whilst employers excuse themselves from paying women the same wages as the men whom they replace, on the ground that many women are not supporting husbands and families, though some women are?

A motion was made, and agreed to, in the House of Commons on October 26th, to have an inquiry into the position, duties and remuneration of the Shorthand Writer to the House and of his staff.

Mr. Dillon objected since he supposed this inquiry was with the intention of economy, which, if practised, should be a general policy. Mr. Byrne agreed with this view adding: "When we have thousands of pounds being wasted outside by Government Departments, I think it is lowering this House to the level of some tuppenny-ha'penny board of a county town to talk of economy at the expense of the junior officials."

THE FORTUNES OF WAR.

Vorwärts vouches for the following story: "The other day a woman travelling from Bremen to Oldenburg, had a terrible experience. In the compartment into which she mounted, two young girls and a man accompanying a woman were already seated. The woman began almost at once to count on her fingers, 'one, two, three,' repeating these words at short intervals. The two girls tittered and made remarks to one another about the extraordinary behaviour of the woman. Every time the woman counted her three fingers, the girls, without thinking that probably there was something behind her strange conduct, renewed their giggling.

"The man who accompanied the woman, irritated at the silly laughter, turned to them with the remark, 'You will perhaps cease your stupid giggling when I tell you that this is my wife, and that she has lost three sons in battle. I am taking her to an asylum.'

It was terribly quiet in the carriage."

When will those in power feel compassion for their victims?

Mr. Annan Bryce, as we anticipated, has disavowed any knowledge of the real objects of the W.S.P.U. Albert Hall meeting. Lord Willoughby de Broke has chosen silence.

Politicians of this type are ready to act with women to secure for their own end, but should anything go wrong, they hurriedly withdraw.

The German Government has asked the American Belgian Relief Committee to feed and clothe 30,000,000 destitute people in Russian Poland this winter. The distress is said to be appalling. We see nothing before us but more small nations being rendered destitute, yet the Great Powers are fighting for "small nations." It seems they must pay in advance.

Several leaders of the Social Democratic party in Germany are to be tried shortly on a charge of "incitement to class hatred," "encouraging the crime of active opposition to the military authorities," and of "encouraging soldiers to be insubordinate." Among the persons to be tried are Frau Doctor Rosa Luxemburg, Frau Zetkin, Dr. Mehring, Herr Peter Berten, and Herr Heinrich Pfeiffer. Rosa Luxemburg has offended with an article in a new periodical entitled "The International Indictment," in which she advocates the resuscitation of the Socialist International as a sort of tribunal to decide the issues of the war.

Frau Zetkin's article was entitled "For Peace." It seems that the discussion of peace is as obnoxious to the German Government as to our own. "After the War" is a stock phrase. Does it not imply "peace"?

It is announced that the Gilbert and Ellice Islands in the Pacific, which have been British Protectorates since 1892, have now been annexed to His Majesty's Dominions, at the express desire of the native Governments.

What about the "desire" of the people; was it consulted?

In order to increase the production of war material, all workmen not already engaged on work for the Army, according to new orders issued by the Russian Government, can be compulsorily requisitioned at the request of the Central Committee for the Organisation of War Industries.

BRITISH ALIENS.

A British woman, wife of an alien, has started the following petition on her own initiative. We shall be glad to send copies to those who will apply to us for it.

To the
Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, *Prime Minister.*

WE, the undersigned, desire to appeal to you as head of the Government, on behalf of British-born wives of aliens, who, though absolutely loyal and British in all their sympathies, are subject to the injurious restrictions and disabilities and the cruel stigma of being registered as alien enemies.

WE urge you to introduce emergency Legislation to extend to British-born wives of aliens the facilities for renaturalisation which have already been extended by emergency Legislation to the British-born widows of aliens, or to adopt some other simple means of securing to these women the status of British subjects.

On November 9th, in the House of Commons, Sir John Simon, in reply to Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, said: "Women of hostile origin, married to British subjects, come within the scope of Regulation 14B of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and are subject to the general supervision which is kept over suspected persons of hostile origin."

British women married to foreigners are not treated as British, and now we learn that foreign women who marry Britishers are *not* British.

Women are refused justice no matter what their nationality. British *men* do not lose their nationality when they marry foreigners!

SOLDIERS' LETTERS HOME.

On November 18th in the House of Commons, Mr. Nield drew the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for War to the practice of censors at the front of destroying soldiers' letters, if enclosed in an envelope which is now regarded as obsolete, and of sending *that envelope alone* to the relatives, with the inscription: "letter destroyed, this pattern is obsolete." The last letter of a son to a widowed mother met with this treatment.

The Post Office officials seem to forget to be human beings.

Mr. Hohler asked about the case of a poor woman whose son had sent a £1 note from the front; but which failed to arrive, because the mail was said to have been lost in transmission from the field post office to a base post office. Mr. Tennant admitted the facts to be correct, but said, "No compensation is admissable."

FROM A SOLDIER'S MOTHER.

Have you heard any news concerning my boy? Here is three weeks to-morrow, Tuesday, and I have not received a copper. Answer me fairly, can you wonder why recruits take French leave? What will my son think when he hears of my having no assistance, situated as I am at the present moment? Is it surprising for a boy to say that he is fed up with the Army?

I am feeling very ill, what with the worry, the price of food, and no boots to get out of doors, I can tell you I am heart-sick of my life. I have just sent off to the Post Office, but my book has not yet arrived, and I am in despair for to-morrow.

What is more, I know not as to my son's whereabouts; he may have gone to the Front for all I know.

DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Dear Editor,—A man who enlisted when the War broke out was engaged on home defence at Barrow-in-Furness, and through exposure and subsequent neglect has practically lost the sight of one eye; the other is seriously affected, and he is almost stone-deaf. He can see neither to read nor write, and has to be led about by his wife.

Since the end of last September he has received no pay or pension. While he is waiting for the authorities to make up their minds as to whether he is entitled to the latter, he has to depend on the National Insurance charity.

He has served the purpose of the capitalist class, and now can be thrown aside as useless.

So many cases like this are coming to light that one wishes that branches of the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives could be established all over the country.—Yours, etc.,

ALICE MACLENAN.

Mr. Anderson raised the sad case of a soldier who was recently dismissed from the Service on medical grounds. He was taken under warrant to the Maybole poorhouse, but he indignantly refused to enter it, asking to be taken to his wife and four children in Sheffield. The military escort disclaimed any further responsibility and left the soldier, who had only 2s. 6d. in his possession!

Mr. Tennant asked Mr. Anderson to repeat the question another day, as he was waiting for a report on the case.

But, meanwhile, where is the poor soldier?

Mrs. Hornbrook of Bellot Street, West Cheetham, and her soldier son, were charged with making false statements as to the youth's earnings before enlistment.

Mrs. Hornbrook and her son were proved to have told the truth, but their application for costs was dismissed on the ground that the action against them had not been brought in bad faith.

So, whilst innocent, they have been made to suffer financially as well as being subjected to much annoyance! This is a serious injustice.

East London Branches of the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives made good progress during the Autumn. The Bromley Branch arranged a most successful outing to Harlow. The Bow Branch has had one Social and is arranging another. The Poplar Branch raised over £2 by a Social. The Walthamstow Branch had a successful Public Meeting in Morris Hall, at which the speakers were Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Windsor, Mr. George Lansbury, and Mr. A. A. Watts. Over 30 new members were made at the meeting. The East Ham Branch has now a large membership, and has held several Public Meetings and Socials. The West Ham Branch has also a large membership.

A soldier's wife in Stoke Newington has offered to take the initiative in working up a meeting to form a branch in that district, and the committee would be glad to hear from intending members and helpers.

A branch will shortly be formed in Battersea.

Those who will help in the formation of new branches should write to the league secretary, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

OBJECTS: To secure the Parliamentary Vote for every Woman over 21, and to promote the Social and Industrial Welfare of Women.
Entrance Fee...1d. Subscription...1d. a Month

BRANCH REPORTS.

BOW.

400 Old Ford Road.

The evening meeting on Sunday was somewhat better attended than the last. The Tuesday afternoon meetings are also better supported, but if members would bring their friends, especially unconverted ones, a great deal of good could be done. Members who are helping with the canvassing are thanked very much. Miss Gallop helped with Paper selling at Saturday afternoon meeting. Mrs. Green has sent in her monthly subscription up to Christmas 2s. (6d. per month).

All members should bring their subscriptions up to date before the end of the year.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Nov. 27th—688. Miss Lynch 225, Miss O'Brien 193, Miss Bennett 50, Mrs. Savoy 24, Miss Smyth 24, Mrs. Farrall 20, Mrs. Greer 20, Mrs. Holloway 132. Bromley—Mrs. Payne 37.

POPLAR.

The Women's Hall, 20 Railway St.
Secretary: Mrs. Drake.

We had a very good meeting here on Sunday, November 21st, when Miss Helsby kindly obliged by singing, and Mr. Fred Hughes gave an interesting address on the "Need of Women to Organise." A good discussion followed. Now be sure and bring your friends *this Sunday, December 5th*, when our speakers will be Miss A. Haughton, B.A., Mr. Walter Godbold and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Mr. Sorensen, Miss Ellen Smith, and Mr. Mackinlay were our speakers during the week.

Our Christmas Party for the children will take place on January 22nd. Our members have commenced to bring some toys, and we shall want a large number of gifts. Sweets and fruit, as well as toys, will be very acceptable, so please be canvassing *your* friends for promises of them. They can be sent later. Now the outside of this hall has been nicely painted, and the inside wants doing *badly*. As we cannot afford to have this done, we shall have to do it ourselves; so will those who have brushes, and pails, and tools for the purpose, kindly lend what they can spare, as soon as possible, so that we can get it all cleaned up by Christmas? We want ladders for reaching the ceiling especially.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Nov. 20th—200. Mrs. Shlette 50, Miss K. Lagsding 26. Collections—Miss Morley and Miss E. Lagsding 19s. 6½d., Miss K. Lagsding 9s. 6d., Miss Manicom 11s. 5½d.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 Dalston Lane
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

In spite of the cold, large and attentive crowd listened to Mrs. Bouvier at Well St. on Saturday morning—27 Papers were sold. Helpers are wanted to sell Papers at open-air meetings. Who will volunteer?

Members are reminded of the stall in Well St. on Saturday afternoons. Helpers are much needed. Members should bring subscriptions up to date before the end of the year.

Dreadnought sold—79. Miss Beamish 49, Miss Sands 20, Mrs. Bird 5, General Sales 5.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin: 55 Fife Road.
Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

On Thursday Mrs. McLeod gave us an interesting account of "Red Cross work in France." Now we are in December will the members please pay up back subscriptions, in order to start the new year well? We are having better meetings in Fife Rd., and last week we made two new members. We hope they will become active workers. All must already be making preparations for the Social on December 11th, in Fairbairn Hall. Who will help to sell tickets, 3d. each? Tickets for the Christmas Dinner at 400 Old Ford Road, December 18th, are on sale, price 6d. each.

Dreadnoughts sold the last two weeks—189. Mrs. Millo 102, Mrs. Bird 37, Miss Beamish 50. Collected—Miss Beamish 1s. 6½d.

The London Insurance Committee on November 26th decided to ignore the recent proposal of sending consumptive patients to workhouses.

Under the Insurance Act consumtives are supposed to be sent to Santoria.

What we want to know is where *are* they going to be sent?

At the London Insurance Committee meeting, Mr. Handel Booth, M.P., strongly repudiated the suggestion that chronic consumption cases would have to go to the Poor Law. "If the Commissioners' suggestion were persisted in he felt he would have to go to 300 towns and villages and tell them that he has been party to one of the biggest deceptions that was ever perpetrated."

This suggestion at a time when we are faced practically with the rebuilding of our nation!

(Continued from front page.)

conscription, it must be ended by other means, the men and women cheered him to the echo; they needed no urging to stand by freedom! They knew that none of the quarrels between France and Germany have been of any moment compared with the French Revolution. They knew that the people's War is the greatest War in the world.

Munitioneers Threat to Strike.

All the speakers referred to the injustice of refusing the people's own Town Hall to them and of forcing them to hold their meeting in the street on such a night. The Labour Councillors had pledged themselves to fight the matter out in the Council, and Mr. Lansbury told the crowd that at the next municipal election they should vote against every member of the Council who voted for the refusal of the Town Hall. But one of the munition workers from the Clyde had a quicker plan than that. He said that in this matter engineers, coppersmiths, plumbers and the rest of them must show their solidarity. Another application must be made for the hall, and if it should be refused the workers must come from the munition factories and dockyards and hold the meeting in the middle of the day in George's Square.

George's Square, be it known, is the principal square of the city where the great and gorgeous City Council offices stand.

At one of the meetings a collection was taken for the E.L.F.S., and 1,000 Dreadnought's were sold on Saturday and Sunday by Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Crawford and other kind friends.

WANTED—MAGNA CHARTA, 1915!

"The spirit of Runnymede is the spirit of the men of 1915," was a vague remark uttered by Viscount Bryce, at a recent meeting of the Royal Historical Society when Professor W. S. McKechnie delivered an address on "Magna Charta, 1215-1915." What "men of 1915" did his Lordship mean?

The Magna Charta was the first great charter of liberty; Viscount Bryce seemed to approve that the great barons of the thirteenth century bullied their sovereign, King John, into signing it. "It is a fundamental right of humanity," he said, "to resist all attempts at oppression . . . We as Englishmen, having learnt liberty, have every reason to fight with might and main to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others."

High-sounding phrases, such as English folk love to hear; but what do they signify?

I know Viscount Bryce thinks that there is liberty in England, and no doubt there is: The liberty of the law to oppress the people; the liberty of a Government to bully Parliament into adopting coercive measures without proper discussion; the liberty of wielding the Defence of the Realm Act, so as to frighten thinking people into silence should they wish to avoid publicity; the liberty of sweating women; the liberty—why profane the word? Let us coin another!

Freedom of speech is checked, the meeting organised by the Union of Democratic Control on November 29th, met with organised opposition. Men wearing the uniform of "liberty-loving" Britain made use of forged tickets. They rushed into the Hall; took possession of the platform, and whilst singing "Rule Britannia" forcibly ejected the speakers; used sulphur to pollute the air—in fact, omitted nothing that the Germans had taught them. They were mostly Australians and New Zealanders. The meeting was abandoned, much to the annoyance of those who had come to hear some sense in this babel of make-believe and hypocrisy; but the British sense of "liberty" was stronger!

We are out to combat an idea called "Prussianism," and we prescribe, as some old country quack will: "The best cure for a burn is to hold the injured part near a hot fire." So, too, the best cure for "Prussianism" abroad must be, it seems, to introduce it at home.

Therefore the meeting at the Memorial Hall was not permitted to proceed. Crowds outside sang "God save the King" (and why shouldn't he?) The police tried to do their duty in keeping order. They seemed to conclude it was a disloyal meeting from the remark one of them made in my hearing: "You see those in the queue don't raise their hats. That will tell you the sort of meeting it is."

The folly and contradiction of it all must sooner or later dawn upon those benighted people who see disloyalty in every use of the word peace—whereas we boast we never wanted war.

We are getting on even better in another quarter. Several men of military age applied to Mr. Paul Taylor, at the Marylebone Police Court, to sign the Foreign Office "Green Form"
(Do they choose green because it is the Irish colour—the small nation that has never had either liberty or fair play at the hands of England, the "protector of small nationalities"?)
recommending for favourable consideration their applications for passports to go abroad. In each case the magistrate refused.

One young man wanted to go to U.S.A. for about six months in connection with a motor business.

Another—seemingly disgusted with his country—wished to go to Caen for the period of the War.

The oppressors of liberty are the real "pro-Germans"; they are giving the Kaiser and his followers the greatest flattery by imitating and walking in his footsteps, or is it that *he* is walking in theirs? Restrictions are the order of the day, and should any misguided idealist propose a toast to the liberties of Great Britain, we may safely quote Jonathan Swift and say, "I drink no memories!"

M. O'C.

CONVERSATIONS AFTER THE WAR.

Employer: My dear man, I quite appreciate your position, but I have nothing to offer you.

Japhet: Oh, dear! I've been told that everywhere since I came back from the War.

Employer: I quite believe it. I have hundreds of young fellows coming here every week.

Japhet: I thought that with a staff of four hundred you might be able to——

Employer: But my staff is entirely female now, and the women have proved so efficient and satisfactory I can't in common fairness discharge any of them to make way for men.

Japhet: Women were only supposed to take our places while we were at the Front.

Employer: Quite so. But they've proved such excellent substitutes that employers do not care to part with them.—*The Referee.*

[Moreover, they are cheap.—Woman's Dreadnought.]

A DEBATE on Friday Night, Dec. 17th. The E.L.F.S. invites members of the Women's International League and others to a demonstration on Continuous Mediation by the Neutral Nations

Mr. John Scurr, the Rev. F. R. Swan, Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Edgar Lansbury, Mrs. Drake, Mr. A. A. Watts and others will take the parts of the various nations. Miss S. Pankhurst will preside.

This will be a most interesting debate, which no one should miss. :: Light refreshments will be provided after the debate, at a low charge. :: :: ::

We are asked to draw the attention of our readers to the organisation called "Citizens of the World," one of whose mottos is Tom Paine's—"The world is my country, every man is my brother, to do good is my religion." The address is "Citizens of the World," Tom-na-Monachan, Pitlochry, Scotland.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

BOW BATHS HALL,
Saturday, Jan. 6th, 4 to 7 p.m.

POPLAR TOWN HALL,
Saturday, Jan. 22nd, 4 to 7 p.m.

CANNING TOWN,
Arrangements announced later.

E.L.F.S. members will shortly receive a letter asking them to give the number and ages of their children, in order that tickets for the children's parties may be issued to them. Should the letter not arrive before December 10th, members are asked to call at at 400, Old Ford Road *before December 16th*, and give these particulars.

TO MOTHERS, when you are buying CHRISTMAS TOYS for your Children, REMEMBER to send some also to OUR CHILDREN IN THE EAST END!

TO CHILDREN who have plenty of TOYS—REMEMBER to send a CHRISTMAS PRESENT to the East End Children who have so few!

E.L.F.S. CHRISTMAS DINNER. "POUND DAY" for our CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS is December 7th. Please send a gift of Ingredients or a Pudding, Vegetables, Fruit, Nuts, or Crackers addressed to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Those who will send Turkeys for the Dinner should see that they reach us one or two days before Dec. 18th. All unsold tickets to be returned by Dec. 10th.

E.L.F.S. NEW YEAR PARTY

BOW BATHS, January 8th,
7 to 12 p.m. Splendid Concert.
:: Great Spring Pageant. ::
Dancing. :: Tickets 3d. each.

APPLY EARLY FOR TICKETS!
BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

PARLIAMENT at 400 OLD FORD ROAD. Mr. Clifford Rowe will read a paper on "World Treaties," Friday, December 3rd, at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY MEETING, Dec. 5th, Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, Poplar, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Haughton, Mr. Godbold. Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

An Australian woman writes:—"I am glad to be able to help your work in any way. You are fighting a great fight against overwhelming odds.

"May the Almighty direct you and sustain you and open the doors for you.

"I herewith send subscription for the Dreadnought."

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.—Anon 50.0.0, Mrs. Erskine (Dreadnought fund) 2.0.0, Mrs. Luscomb (Dreadnought fund) 1.0.0, Lady Courtney (Dreadnought fund) 5.0, S. Kirkwood, Esq 4.6, Collections Poplar 4.3, Miss L. Bent 3.0, Collection Sunday Meeting 1.3½.

For Milk and General Distress—Charles Wright, Esq 5.0.0, per Mrs. Leo Myers from a friend in New Zealand 2.0.0, W. Peacock, Esq 1.15.0, P. H. King, Esq 1.1.0, Miss G. Andren 1.1.0, Miss Yeoman (10.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Mrs. Cobden Unwin 1.0.0, Mrs. Vatcher (5.0 monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Webb 10.0, Mrs. A. Woodman 10.0, Miss H. O. Hopwood 10.0, per Mrs. Garner (weekly) 10.0, Miss Dack and Miss J. T. Gulland 9.1, per Mr. Doughty 5.4, Miss Morgan (monthly) 5.0, Misses Barrowman (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 5.0, Misses Black (monthly) 5.0, J. Theodore Dodd, Esq 2.6, Miss Ogle 6.6, Mrs. Barry 4.0, D. Wilkie, Esq (monthly) 2.6, Miss Hudson 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Miss Rock's dog 2.4½, "Lednah" 2.0, Miss I. Clephane 2.0, Mrs. King 1.6.

Towards Christmas Parties.—Misses Hancock 1.0.0, per Miss Wilmore 9.9½.

Collections.—Toolroom L.S.A. 1.13.8, Bow Milk 1.1.11½, Misses Morley & Manicom 19.6½, Stocking Shop L.S.A. 18.0, Bromley Milk 12.7, Mrs. Drake 12.1½, Caxton Hall Milk collection 11.5, Miss Lagsding 8.3½, Miss Mackay at Caxton Hall, 8.2, Miss Beamish 1.6½, Canning Town milk 1.6, Mrs McLeod 1.2.

Clothing, Etc.—Mrs. John H. Clarke, Mrs. K. Brown, Mrs. Trent, Miss Eardley, Mrs. Agnes Watson, Mrs. Gardner, Anon.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd. T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their Offices, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.